

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action transmitted February 7, 2008 ("*Office Action*"). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1-48 were pending. In the *Office Action*, the Examiner allows Claims 1-22, rejects Claims 23, 31-33, 36 and 44-46, and objects to Claims 24-30, 34, 35, 37-41, 43, 47 and 48. Applicants presently amend Claims 23, 25-27, 36, and 38-40 and cancel Claims 24 and 37 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 24-30, 34, 35, 37-41, 43, 47 and 48 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. To hasten issuance of currently allowable subject matter, Applicants amend independent Claim 23 to incorporate the limitations of its allowable dependent claim 24 and amend independent Claim 36 to incorporate the limitations of its allowable dependent claim 37. Applicants respectfully submit that this places all claims in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects Claims 23, 31-33, 36 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,788,688 to Trebes, Jr. ("*Trebes*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but to hasten issuance of currently allowable subject matter, Applicants amend all currently rejected independent claims (23 and 36) to incorporate allowable subject matter. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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